

Objective reality

Every aspect of man's thinking is divorced from reality due to sin.
So when man operates independent from God that is the essence of evil.

Visible Christianity

Visible Christianity's reference point is the objective verifiable word of God.

Our reference point for divine knowledge and relationship is not A W Tozer's view, that we should return to the great teachers of the Reformation to discover a closer relationship with God.

5.25.17

Characteristics of a growing spiritual life

Interpreting within the context:

1. a.

Key verse for understanding chapter 3

1 John 2:28-29 (NKJV)

28 And now, little children, **abide** in Him, that when He **appear**, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

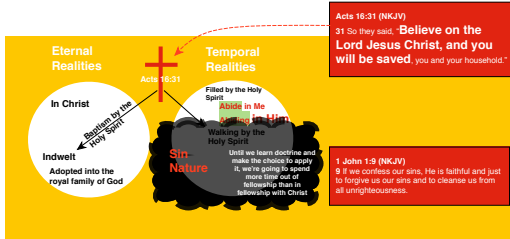
29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who **practices** righteousness is born of Him.

imperative — The mood that normally expresses a command, intention, exhortation, or polite request.
The imperative mood is therefore not an expression of reality but possibility and volition.

Volition: we either choose to abide or not to abide.

If we choose to abide then something is going to develop in our lives which will reveal our new family relationship.

Until we learn doctrine we're still going to think like we thought before we were saved, and as a result we will also act the same way we acted before we were saved.



1 John 3:1-24 (NKJV)

- Behold what manner of **love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been **revealed** what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.
- And you know that He was **sent** to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.
- Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
- Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
- He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was **sent**, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Characteristics of a growing spiritual life

Children who are manifesting the quality of their character
Not a reference to their position, but rather their relationship with Christ in the family

10 In this the **children of God** and the **children of the devil** are **revealed**: Whoever does not **practices** righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not **love** his brother.

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Are you **manifesting** or demonstrating your royal family membership

Matthew 16:22-23 (NKJV)

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"
23 But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

- For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should **love** one another.
- Not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteousness.
- Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.
- We know that we have passed from death to life, because we **love** the brethren. He who does not **love** his brother abides in death.
- Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
- By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the **love** of God abide in him?
- By little children, let us not **love** in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
- And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
- For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
- Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.
- For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
- And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and **love** one another, as He gave us commandment.
- Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

i.

2.

John 15:1-11 (NKJV)

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
3 **You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.**

4 **abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who **abides** in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 **If** anyone does not **abide** in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered, and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If** you **abide** in Me, and My words **abide** in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you: **abide** in My love.

10 **If** you keep My commandments, you will **abide** in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Until you make the choice to obey doctrine over self-love, you will never be able to perceive the impact the world has on you or on your spouse and as a result the impact that it will have on your children.

You will never be able to identify incorrect thinking. You will always be of the opinion that your thinking is pretty sound.

But eventually one day you will learn to regret the decisions you've made from self-love.

Key verse

1 John 2:28-29 (NKJV)

28 And now, little children, **abide** in Him

As you grow as a believer and come to understand what the word of God says, then your thinking will change. You will challenge the human viewpoint in your soul for divine viewpoint.

And resulting from the change of thinking there's a change of behavior and of lifestyle, there's a change of priorities, so that as the believer grows he begins to re-evaluate and re-evaluate his own family relationships.

But if you do not see the manifestation of a new family relationship, doesn't necessarily mean they're not a member.

3766 φαρεσῶν (pharēsōn) - vb. = SB 5819;
TDNT 9.3 - i. LN 24.19 cause to be seen.

1 John 3:10 (NASB95)

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are **obvious**; anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

Indicates this will help you to distinguish the difference between a believer and an unbeliever

John 13:34 (NKJV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;
6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.